

Message Text

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R 010740Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9333

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2318

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW

SUBJECT: COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN UPRISING

SUMMARY: PEKING'S COMMEMORATION OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 1947, TAIWAN UPRISING WAS SIMILAR TO THE 1975 RALLY, WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF TAIWAN. IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT UNITED FRONT TACTICS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EX-KMT PRISONERS RELEASED DURING 1975 AND OTHER "TAIWANESE COMPATRIOTS" WERE PRESENT TO TESTIFY TO THE PRC'S MAGNANIMITY OR EVEN ALLUDE TO THE THREAT OF FORCE IN THE REUNIFICATION PROCESS. RATHER, THE THEME WAS THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN, WITH SOME MODEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE MAINLAND, TO REUNIFY CHINA.

1. THE MAJOR TAIWAN UPRISING RALLY IN PEKING HAD ESSENTIALLY THE SAME CAST AS IN 1975 WITH CHEN HSI-LIEN (SUBBING FOR THE AILING YEH CHIEN-YING) AND HSU HSIANG-CHIEN AS THE RANKING LEADERS IDENTIFIED IN BOTH THEIR MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT TITLES BUT NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE SPEECH-
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MAKING. LIAO CHEN-CHIH SERVED HIS USUAL ROLE AS THE

MAIN SPEAKER WITH BACKUP FROM PRIMARILY TAIWAN-ORIENTED SECONDARY SPEAKERS DRAWN FROM THE RANKS OF EX-KMT OFFICIALS RELEASED DURING 1975 AND FROM LONG-TIME (AND A FEW SHORTER TERM, SUCH AS LI YI) "TAIWANESE COMPATRIOTS" RESIDENT IN CHINA.

2. AGAIN THIS YEAR, THE THEME WAS THE INEVITABILITY OF REUNIFICATION, BUT THIS YEAR'S EMPHASIS WAS MORE ON THE ROLE OF THE TAIWANESE THEMSELVES, WITH SOME HELP FROM THEIR MAINLAND COLLEAGUES, TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. LIAO'S SPEECH FIRST DEPICTED THE GLORIES OF LIFE ON THE MAINLAND AND THE "BEGINNINGS OF PROSPERITY" WHICH THE CORRECT APPLICATION OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY LINE HAD BROUGHT IN CHINA. HE THEN COMPARED THIS ACHIEVEMENT TO THE SHARPENING OF CONTRADICTIONS" ON TAIWAN. CITING THE GRC AS BECOMING "INCREASINGLY ISOLATED" AND WITH ITS "COLONIAL ECONOMY" SUFFERING FROM BOTH INFLATION AND PRODUCTION STAGNATION. GIVEN THIS "OPPRESSION", LIAO ARGUED THAT THERE IS INCREASED RESISTANCE AMONG THE TAIWANESE AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT. AFTER CLAIMING MORE AND MORE TAIWANESE HAVE BEEN VISITING THE MAINLAND, LIAO MAINTAINS THAT "THE TAIWAN PEOPLE, TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE ON THE MAINLAND, WILL SURELY OVERTHROW CHIANG CHING-HUO'S REACTIONARY RULE".

3. LIAO POINTS DIRECTLY TO THE THREE BATCHES OF RELEASED EX-KMT OFFICIALS AS CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF MAO'S POLICY OF "COMBINING REFORM THROUGH LABOR WITH IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION", AND AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE "GREATER STABILITY AND UNITY" ON THE MAINLAND. IN CONTRAST, HE SEES ONLY A "HANDFUL OF ANTI-CHINA, ANTI-COMMUNIST DIEHARDS IN THE WORLD". IN COLLUSION WITH AN "EXTREMELY FEW NATIONAL DEGENERATES ON TAIWAN" AS STILL SEEKING VARIOUS FORMULATIONS--TWO CHINAS, ONE CHINA, TWO GOVERNMENTS, OR AN INDEPENDENT TAIWANA--IN AN EFFORT TO OBSTRUCT REUNIFICATION.

4. EXCERPTS FROM SPEECHES BY VARIOUS "TAIWAN COMPATRIOTS" AT THE MEETING STRESS THE MAGNANIMITY AND LENIENCY OF THE PRC IN DEALING WITH THEIR PAST CRIMES AS ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW THEIR LEAD IN RETURNING TO CHINA TO WORK
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FOR THE MOTHERLAND. THERE IS NO MENTION OR EVEN ALLUSION TO THE USE OR THREAT OF MILITARY ACTION IN THE REUNIFICATION PROCESS AND THE ROLE OF THE MAINLANDERS IS LARGELY REDUCED TO SUPPORTING THE TAIWANESE.

5. FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE PRC-OWNED HONG KONG PRESS HAS CONTINUED A NUMBER OF SIMILAR APPEALS BY VARIOUS EX-KMTERS AND TAIWANESE NOW IN CHINA TO THEIR FRIENDS AND

FAMILIES ON TAIWAN. THE MESSAGE HAS BEEN SIMPLE AND CLEAR--
LIFE ON THE MAINLAND IS SUPERIOR TO LIFE ON TAIWNA AND ANY
CHOOSING TO GO TO CHINA WILL BE PROVIDED A "BRIGHT FUTURE."
CROSS

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